



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

March 29, 2004

To: All Agricultural Commissioners

Over the past year, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has been working in conjunction with the county agricultural commissioners to develop funding sources to maintain support for Agricultural Code programs. CDFA staff approached Caltrans and were successful in obtaining significant changes in the formula used to calculate the unrefunded gas tax. The changes resulted in an increase in revenue transferred to CDFA for allocation to the counties pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code Section 224c.

The Department appreciates the counties' willingness to share the pro rata obligation assessed to the unrefunded gas tax funds from the 224c portion of the distribution. We plan to continue discussions with the Department of Finance on this issue.

Fiscal Year 2003/04 will be the first year counties will receive the increase. Your county will receive a check for \$_____ as your share of the total available to county agricultural commissioners under Food and Agricultural Code Section 224c from the State Controller's Office within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this letter. This amount was determined using the formula requested by the county agricultural commissioners during their November Conference. The new formula excludes the previous years' unrefunded gas tax reimbursement as revenue in calculating the net county cost for agricultural programs.

Counties have identified the need for more funds in a number of programs including high-risk pest exclusion and pest detection/trapping activities. CDFA's efforts to obtain additional unrefunded gas tax monies were based largely on the need for funds to maintain critical county activities in these and other local agriculture programs. We understand that counties are facing budget reductions and increased county costs. However, the additional unrefunded gas tax your county receives is intended to augment your existing agriculture programs; it is not intended to supplant other existing funds.

If you have any questions please, contact Janet Glaholt at (916) 654-0968 or Ed Williams at (916) 653-6649.

Sincerely,

A.G. Kawamura
Secretary

cc: County Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Officer

